(c) what is the time-frame for submission of the Report of this Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) During the meeting of the Hon'ble Prime Minister with the Central Trade Unions on 18th October, 2002, some of the trade union leaders had raised the issue of condition of workers in disinvested companies such as BALCO and Modern Foods. In view of this, a team of officials is proposed to be sent to assess the impact of disinvestment on labour in BALCO and Modern Foods.

EPF subscribers

2302. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of EPF subscribers in the country; and

(b) what steps have been taken to ensure early settlement of their claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) As on 31.3.2002, there were 274.18 lakh Employees Provident Fund subscribers in the country.

(b) The Central Board of Trustees (Employees Provident Fund) has approved in October 2002, a modernization programme, namely 'Reinventing Employees Provident Fund-India' which will enable the subscribers to access their accounts and file their claims from any of the EPF offices as against the present system which limits them only to one office, where they are registered. This would substantially reduce the time between receipt of claim and issue of cheque.

Employment scenario

2303. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI P. G. NARAYANAN:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of unemployment problem indicating the number of unemployed, both educated and uneducated, State-wise and the manpower planning made in this regard; and

(b) the number of direct and indirect employment generated through NGO by implementation of various Government/Centrally sponsored schemes as well as the funding from other sources including foreign funding, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The number of job-seekers (both educated and uneducated, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in the country as on September, 2002 was of the order of 416.4 lakh. State-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed: (*See* below)

(b) As per the sample surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 1999-2000, the estimated work force in the country was of the order of 397 million as compared to 374.5 million in 1993-94. Most of the employment generation took place in the unorganised private sector including employment generation through NGO efforts.

Statement

Number of Job-seekers (including educated and uneducated) on the live register of Employment Exchanges as on 30.9.2002.

Sl.No.	States/Union Territories	(In thousands)
1	2	3
(A)	**States**	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2994.2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	22.8
3.	Assam	1541.6
4.	Bihar	1837.6
5.	Chhattisgarh	795.4
6.	Delhi	1040.3
7.	Goa	102.7
8.	Gujarat	1073.5
9.	Haryana	778.9
10.	Himachal Pradesh	906.9
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	154.3
12.	Jharkhand	1334.4

1	2	3
13.	Karnataka	1987.2
14.	Kerala	3940.6
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1839.9
16.	Maharashtra	4484.7
17.	Manipur	412.4
18.	Meghalaya	35.6
19.	Mizoram	41.8
20.	Nagaland	35.7
21.	Orissa	773.1
22.	Punjab	520.8
23.	Rajasthan	741.9
24.	Sikkim*	—
25.	Tamil Nadu	5045.1
26.	Tripura	341.6
27.	Uttaranchal	357.1
28.	Uttar Pradesh	1829.0
29.	West Bengal	6364.2
(B)	**Union Territories**	
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	38.5
31.	Chandigarh	84.2
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5.6
33.	Daman and Diu	8.1
34.	Lakshadweep	11.4
35.	Pondicherry	153.5
	TOTAL :	41634.6

* No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.

Default in remittance of PF Contribution

2304. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the MINISTER OF LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a good number of tea estate companies have defaulted in remitting Provident Fund contribution of the employees and also the amount they collected from the workers by way of Provident Fund contribution to the Employees Provident Fund Scheme; and